

The OC: China

Mission Statement

(scroll down for the regularly updated blog posts)

Hello, my name is Jordan and I am a delegate on the People to People trip to China in one of the Orange County delegations.

My idea behind this site is to make it as easy as possible for family and friends to check out how the delegation's trip is going. I will be traveling with my laptop and am planning on doing a mix of regular text posts, audio podcasts, and even some video posts while on the trip in China. Of course I don't know how often I will be able to do this, considering it would require an internet connection, but anytime I can get on the internet I will try and post to this site and let other kids in my delegation use my computer and connection to do their own posts and to send their own e-mails. China is such an amazing country and I am so excited to be on this trip; I am sure that all my fellow delegates feel the same way. I hope this site will help to ease the minds of everyone at home concerned about their friends and family who are on this trip.

P.S. If you would like to send an e-mail to a person on this trip, you may send it to me so as to guarantee that they will get it, because I will be checking my e-mail as much as possible. And of course I will inform any person of an e-mail received as soon as I get it. My e-mail is razzipics-ptpchina@yahoo.com. Please put your child's name in the subject field of the e-mail.

Monday, July 25, 2005

Be seein' ya soon!

It is my last morning here in Hong Kong and in all of China. At least I can say that it is an extremely relaxing morning albeit kind of sad. In stead of trying to make us tour to the very last minute we have been given the entire morning off, basically we are allowed to do whatever we wish whether that be sleep-in or go out into the city for shopping or whatnot. Then after lunch we all gather and head out for the HK International Airport.

Now about yesterday our first full day in HK. I must say that this is quite a city and that we really did a lot all around in the different sections of this sprawling metropolis but as for the details...well I've got free time I want to use this morning too so I'm gonna make you all wait and you can ask your kids about the details when you pick them up at the airport :). But seriously we had a great time in HK yesterday and I am sure that everyone on this trip would love to tell you all about it.

Before I sign-off for today I just want to let everyone know that I am planning on updating this site beyond the end of this trip. I'm gonna put together an online photo album of all the pictures me and some other students have taken throughout the trip and I am also working on making a printable version of all of the entries I have posted so far on the site, for anyone who is interested. And of course if you have any comments or questions for me or whatnot you will still be able to e-mail at the address that has been available from the beginning. Now I gotta go get some breakfast and do some last minute shopping :). See you all soon!

Sunday, July 24, 2005

Live from Hong Kong

So I know that there a few days in Shanghai and Suzhou that I haven't really written about yet and to be honest I don't really plan on writing anything, just for the sake of time. To summarize those days, lets just say the although the touring was good the highlight was all of the free time during both the day and night. We really had an opportunity to see the city, get some good food, and find some good shopping.

Today we have arrived in Hong Kong, our final destination. I am writing this at 10:30 pm and tomorrow will be our last full day in Hong Kong and in China overall. This trip has flown by, yet has also crept along. I feel like I have been here in China forever, 17 days over here is a lot longer than 17 days at home, at least it seems that way. And you know like any of these trips, its always a bittersweet ending 'cuz you want to go home and sleep in your bed and be with your family but you also want to stay on vacation and not have to worry about all the responsibilities that are awaiting you, but I digress.

Saturday, July 23, 2005

Getting Ready To Go

I am currently getting packed and ready for tomorrow morning's flight to Hong Kong. Man this trip is so close to over, I don't know whether to be happy or sad, so I'll just focus on all the fun we'll have in Hong Kong the next couple of days before we have our horrific flight back home (I guess the flight really isn't that bad). So I know that I haven't updated since before the homestays but during the flight to Shanghai I wrote up the whole story of the homestays and all. So I am going to post that below:

Thursday, July 21, 2005

busy busy

Hey

As you might suspect we are busy and having a super time so much to do and sleep as well

Sorry that my updating is a bit lax, but be assured all is well and as scheduled
watch for an updated asap
ptpchina, Jordan

Sunday, July 17, 2005

Safe & Sound in Xi'an

Alright, so our last day in Beijing was a unique one at that, not unlike all the previous days there. Unique days are rather unavoidable in China, but I digress.

We started our last day out by visiting a local government managed sports school. At this school they teach sports such as ping-pong, badminton, kung-fu, weight-lifting and more. We had a chance to play ping-pong with a bunch of nine year olds. For barely being able to see over the table they were amazingly good. You could tell that they got pretty bored playing with all us novices, but I know that they had fun trying to teach us the secret of ping-pong. I can personally say that that 'secret' is still well kept, but even though I played horrible ping-pong I had a lot of fun making a new friend. After having lunch at the sports school we went on a pedicab tour through the 'hutong,' which literally means 'small alley.' It's really just a section of the city that was preserved to show how life was back in the old days. As part of the tour we visited a typical Chinese family's home and had the opportunity to ask many questions. It was quite enlightening.

Friday, July 15, 2005

Double the Days, but just one post

So I'm sure a lot of you noticed that there as no post yesterday. The reason is that I had such a great time hiking the great wall and learning shao-lin martial arts that I just didn't have any energy left to update the site. So to make up for it today's post will cover yesterday and today.

Yesterday was by far the best day I have had on this trip. It was quite interesting watching the ladies work at the Claisonne factory. It is such intricate work. The guide joke that women could only do it because don't have enough patience, and I whole-heartedly agree. The women there were so focused and were working on such minuscule and detailed plates and vases. It was all quite astonishing.

After we had time to shop at the factory (i'm sure many of you parents will be rather surprised at the 'expense' your kids went through to buy you some very nice gifts, remember its the thought that counts, money can be replaced), we headed out to the Great Wall of China.

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

First full day in Beijing

Hello again, we had a great time today. After breakfast we went to one of the local vocational schools where they teach cooking, hair dressing, and hotel management to 16-18 year olds. It was really fun getting to make spring rolls and dessert dumplings in the teaching kitchens with some of the school's students. We then had some free time and played some 5-on-5 basketball out behind the school. It was then time for lunch and we got to eat all of the food

we had made before.

After lunch we got on the bus and headed for the Forbidden City in the center of Beijing. Let me just say that place is huge. We spent a good four hours just walking through all the different buildings. There are so many layers to the city. Our guide said that it was partly for protection and also partly to separate the different ranks of royalty, all culminating with the Emperor. It was fascinating learning the history of the city/palace.

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

We've Arrived in Beijing

We arrived in Beijing right on time and quickly got on the bus to the hotel. And let me just say that the weather is just as expected, hot and humid. But everyone has adapted like a pro, and isn't letting it bring them down.

After having a break at the hotel to freshen up we headed out to Tianeman Square. Check out the [video clip](#) to see everyone hanging around the square. We were allowed some free time at the square and then we got on the bus to head back to the hotel.

We had an authentic family style Chinese dinner and then 2 hours of free time, which most of us used to go bowling at the alley located here in the hotel. And then of course it was time for lights out.

Marsha tells me that our group continues to receive nothing but compliments from everyone we encounter, and I feel very lucky that I have been able to find so many internet connections. Everything is going great.

Keep checking the site for more updates, videos, and pictures! (the video for this post should be up by tomorrow sorry for the delay)

Monday, July 11, 2005

We Have Arrived!

The flight was as good as any 13+ hour flight could be. If you click the [movie link](#) you can see a little [clip](#) of everybody on the plane.

So we're in Hong Kong Airport right now at gate 15 waiting for our next flight going to Beijing, and then that's when all the fun starts :). The group has already started to receive compliments. Everything has been smooth sailing and everyone is getting along fine. This trip is starting out great!

Keeping checking for more updates!

Saturday, July 09, 2005

China Tomorrow!

China Tomorrow! Hope you're all packed. I just started and finished today. Whew!

Suitcase: 40 lbs exactly
Carry-on: about 15 lbs

My carry-on may seem heavy, but that's about average for me. I need to learn to bring less stuff. Hmmm, what shouldn't I take:

laptop, iPod, camera? Yah I won't be leaving anything behind. Oh well, it's a good upper back workout. See you all tomorrow!

Thursday, July 07, 2005

The Picnic & More

The group picnic was today, which most of you should've already been aware of considering attendance was basically mandatory. If you were not aware of it then I suggest scouring your recent e-mails, including your junk mail folder, and then contacting Marsha and begging for sweet mercy. Or you might not actually be in the delegation and that would explain why you weren't aware of the picnic.

Tuesday, July 05, 2005

Just Sharing Travel Tips

So I've been picking up all kinds of fun travelling accessories. And firstly I just want to say, no security wallet this year. No sir, they are not for me. I tried to take one to Japan last year and ended up unhooking it from my waste and just folding it up in my pocket, which kind of defeated the whole purpose of the thing. So this year my wallet will be sporting a very fashionable and discreet belt chain. Maybe it isn't the most secure thing and it doesn't really hide my wallet from view or anything but its better than nothing and its a whole lot better than sticking my bulky security wallet in my pocket. And let me just say that just because I don't like security wallets doesn't mean that they're a bad thing. I have met

many people who swear by them, and I don't doubt that they work, as long as they are used properly. So don't let me sway you from getting one, not that I have such delusions of grandeur that I think that the opinion of a stranger means all that much to you, because although they may be inconvenient they are secure.

But anyways,

Monday, July 04, 2005

Happy 4th of July!

Monday, July 04, 2005

The Countdown

So it is July 4th, just 6 days 'till China. Today I will be at the fair looking at super absorbent car shammies and watching a fireworks show; a week from now I will be on a plane heading west. Heading for the most populated country in the world with more than 1.2 billion people. That is 1.2 billion + 35 American tourists, do you think that the landmass can handle all of us? Our straw just might break the camels back, yeah right. In numbers we may be insignificant, but in presence we are holding the weight of a nation on our shoulders.
